

Super Efficient Home Appliance Rebate Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated November 8, 2011

Virginia Super Efficient Home Appliance Rebate Program:

The following list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is maintained by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Energy. To ensure consistent and uniform answers to all questions, this is the only mechanism to ask questions and receive answers about the Virginia Super Efficient Home Appliance Rebate Program.

You can submit a question by using this link: FAQceeappliance@dmme.virginia.gov

We will endeavor to personally respond to as many questions as possible but not every question will receive a response. Return to this webpage soon to look for an answer to your questions. Please read the existing FAQs carefully to see if your question or one very similar to your question already has been answered.

Technical Questions

1. How do I reserve a rebate?

Go to the Super Efficiency Home Appliance Rebate Program webpage at <http://www.dmme.virginia.g/DE/ARRA-Public/SEApplianceRebate.shtml> to read about the program requirements, then click on the application link to reserve your rebate: <https://epm.virginiainteractive.org/eeappliancerebate>

2. How do I redeem a rebate?

Once you have purchased and installed the appliance, go back to this website and log in to your account to redeem your rebate: <https://epm.virginiainteractive.org/eeappliancerebate>

Once you are in the system, you will be required to input data about the new appliance and print a barcode page and a signature form that will confirm that the replacement product was properly disposed of or recycled.

3. Waiting List -- What does that mean?

When reservations deplete the available funds for an appliance, applications will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they are received. Money left over from unredeemed reservations will trickle down to those on the list.

Please do not call or send an email to ask about your place on the waiting list or to ask us to predict whether or when there will be enough funds to approve your

reservation request. The Division of Energy receives a high volume of calls and emails for assistance to complete work on and redeem approved reservations. The more we can focus on this work, the faster more funds become available for applicants on the wait list. Distracting us from this work will only increase your wait time.

Program Questions

4. **When did the rebate program begin?**

The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. EDT on **Monday, October 24, 2011.**

5. **How many rebates are available?**

The Commonwealth of Virginia plans to distribute about \$3 million through several thousand rebates to Virginia residents participating in the rebate program.

6. **Can I sign up for more than one rebate?**

Yes, customers can now apply for more than one rebate on separate, eligible products.. Original purchase date requirements remain the same (on or after October 24, 2011).

7. **Can I combine this rebate with other rebates and discounts?**

Yes, only if the other rebate is not funded through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program. Consumers claiming a rebate through this program can also claim manufacturer or retailer rebates. Additionally, some products in this program may be eligible for a federal or state tax credit. For more information on federal energy efficiency tax credits, go to www.energystar.gov or consult a tax professional.

8. **How do I apply for a rebate?**

a. Click here to reserve and redeem your rebate:

<https://epm.virginiainteractive.org/eeappliance rebate>

b. Purchase a CEE-rated high efficiency appliance from a Virginia retailer or vendor.

c. Ensure proper installation of your new appliance and the recycling or proper disposal of your old appliance.

d. Redeem your rebate within 60 days of your reservation (**30 days if reservation made on or after November 11, 2011**). To redeem your rebate, return to the appliance rebate link above.

9. **Is this another round of a previous rebate program?**

No, this is DMME's fifth Recovery Act funded rebate program. Previous programs generated high demand for rebates and have been fully subscribed. Please note that this Super Efficient Home Appliance Rebate Program has unique eligibility and product guidelines and is independent of any other past rebate programs.

10. **How is this different from the Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program?**

The current Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program includes rebates for ENERGY STAR-rated and/or AHRI-certified items like refrigerators, clothes washers, storage natural gas water heaters, tankless natural gas water heaters, natural gas furnaces and air source heat pumps. Rebates are only available to residential customers and are a set dollar amount for each product.

The Super Efficient Home Appliance Rebate program provides higher amount rebates on high efficiency, Tier 2 and Tier 3 appliances as rated by the Council for Energy Efficiency (CEE).

11. How were the appliance selections and rebate amounts determined?

DMME determined appliance selection and rebate levels in consultation with the Department of Energy. Items to be included and the rebate amounts were selected to best accomplish the rebate program's goals of increasing residential energy conservation through more efficient appliances and stimulating the Commonwealth's economy and job growth through additional retail sales of CEE-rated super efficient products.

Heating and cooling can be up to 50% of a home's energy use and the efficiency of newer products far exceeds that of older units in many residences. Replacing older units with new CEE-rated heat pumps and natural gas furnaces results in the greatest impact on home energy use. That is why the majority of our available funds are targeted toward these systems.

Many Virginians may be looking for other smaller ways to upgrade their appliances and conserve energy. That is why we included rebates for super efficient dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators as an easy and convenient way to stimulate the economy and reduce household energy use.

12. Why are clothes dryers not included in this program?

Clothes Dryers are not rated by ENERGY STAR or CEE, and this particular program is designed only for appliances which have super high-efficiency standards. The Department of Energy's Appliance Standards program conducted a detailed study which found that the clothes dryers on the U.S. market do not vary significantly from each other in terms of energy consumption. This is also the reason why the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) does not require clothes dryers to have a yellow EnergyGuide label.

13. Can I use this rebate for a geothermal or ground-source heat pump?

No. Geothermal heat pumps rebates for 20% of the cost of the system, up to \$2,000, are available through our separate Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate Program. Go to www.dmme.virginia.gov and click on that rebate link for more information. Additionally, geothermal systems may be eligible for the federal income tax credit for energy efficient appliances.

14. What are the tax implications of this rebate?

The Department of Energy has received the following written guidance on this issue from the Internal Revenue Service:

- "The Internal Revenue Service will treat payments to consumers funded by the \$300,000,000 ARRA appropriation (ARRA ENERGY STAR rebates) as reductions in the purchase price of the purchased product rather than income. Consequently, consumers must reduce the adjusted basis of property acquired with an ARRA ENERGY STAR rebate by its amount and must not treat that amount as an expenditure in determining any federal income tax deduction or credit. In addition, States and other payors of ARRA ENERGY STAR rebates are not required to report such payments on Forms 1099."

For further information regarding this IRS guidance or any tax related questions regarding any of the rebate programs please consult a tax professional.

15. What is the difference between “proper disposal” and “recycling”?

Proper disposal: The old product being replaced is removed from the home and disposed of so it cannot be refurbished or re-sold. The old product is handled in accordance with all federal and state waste management laws, which at a minimum means refrigerants are captured. Proper disposal does not include recycling.

Recycling: The old product being replaced is removed from the home and taken to a recycling facility where the following occurs: the product is de-manufactured; all hazardous materials are handled in accordance with Federal, state, and local laws; and all recyclable materials (e.g. plastics, metals, and glass) are sorted and reprocessed into raw materials for future reuse.